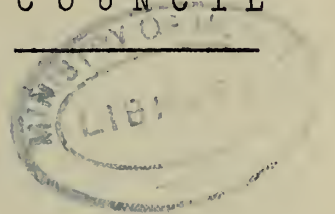


LANGPORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year Ending DECEMBER 31ST, 1948.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health. A.M. McCall, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector. H.F. Binder, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector. A.A. Kemmish, M.S.I.A.

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To the Chairman, and Councillors of the Langport Rural District Council.

Miss. Crosthwaite and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1948.

During the year in the Langport Rural District there was a moderate outbreak of whooping cough which lasted some months; otherwise there was no serious epidemics. The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified continues about the same. However, these are higher than I could wish but no doubt the low lying terrain and damp housing conditions in these areas are predisposing factors.

The National Health Service Act came into operation on the 5th July. The transition has been free from major upsets, due to the whole hearted co-operation of the Medical Practitioners in Langport. It is too early to say to what extent the health of the people has been effected, but to judge by the numbers who now avail themselves of the services provided it would appear that previously a large number of people were deterred for financial reasons from obtaining necessary advice and treatment.

During the year 50 houses were completed. There are still some parishes without any new houses the main reason is the lack of a suitable water supply. Every effort is being made to overcome these difficulties and I feel confident that a solution will be found in the near future.

Another increasing urgent problem is the housing of the aged. The increasing age of the population together with the greater expectation of life will in the coming years present very great difficulties. Taking the country as a whole when present housing programmes have been completed about 5% of houses should be suitable for old people. We should plan now to avoid a serious situation later.

The need for a new sewage system in Langport, so often referred to by my predecessors, is greater than ever. It is astonishing to me that such a town is so inadequately provided. The present system only bears comparison with those of mediaeval England. The cost of a suitable scheme may be large but the present system is

bound to cause trouble sooner or later, and if a serious epidemic result the loss of life will not be calculable in pounds. I suggest that a new scheme cannot be longer delayed and that the Council would be well advised to commence the preliminary work immediately.

I have to thank the Chairman and Councillors for their confidence and support and my fellow officials for their assistance.

I am,

Miss. Crosthwaite and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

(Signed) A.M. McCall.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	57,122 Acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of						
(a) Resident Population mid 1948						
(b) Average population appropriate to the calculation of the death rates.				...		12,830.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948)				...		
according to rate book.						3,875.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£48,533.
Sum represented by a penny rate				...	...	£212.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births	- Legitimate	208	100	108
	Illegitimate	13	7	6
Still Births	- Legitimate	6	2	4
	Illegitimate	1	-	1
Deaths		131	63	68

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident Population 17.7

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population. 10.21.

Death from Puerperal Causes. Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 Live Births.	22.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	24.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	35
" " Measles (all ages).	Nil.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES

The public mains water supplies are obtained from five sources, and particulars of the various supplies are as follows:-

COMPTON DURVILLE

SUPPLYING THE PARISHES OF KINGSBURY EPISCOPI, MUCHELNEY
HUISH EPISCOPI, LANGPORT & ALLER.

The water obtained from this source has a total hardness of 32, and the chemical composition results in the deposit of large amounts of scale. The formation of this scale considerably restricts the flow of water in service pipes and causes damage to hot water systems and ball valves in private houses, and has, in the course of time, put a number of sluice valves on the mains out of action. In view of this it is recommended that serious consideration should be given to the provision of a softening plant at the headworks in connection with the new scheme.

This supply provides water for five parishes, and although the yield from the boreholes is more than adequate to meet the demand, considerable difficulty has been experienced in maintaining the supply to the parishes of Langport, Huish Episcopi and Aller. The difficulty is entirely due to the size of the existing 4" main being inadequate, and will be completely overcome as soon as the new 10" main, now being laid as part of the Eastern Parishes Scheme is completed.

Twelve samples for bacteriological examination have all been satisfactory and chlorination is not undertaken except upon occasions when contamination may have occurred, e.g. after a burst main.

Extensions or Improvements of Supply during the Year.

Stage II of the Eastern Parishes Scheme has been proceeding since the month of April. The work of laying the mains has suffered to a great extent from delay caused by lack of special fittings, and insufficient labour, but after taking into account these difficulties, fair progress can be said to have been made.

The construction of two new reservoirs in connection with this scheme has been commenced, and is proceeding at a very satisfactory rate.

Post War Proposals.

It is hoped that in the near future Stage III of the Eastern Parishes Scheme will receive the final approval of the Ministry of Health, and that the Council will be able to invite tenders for the laying of mains in order to carry the scheme to its ultimate conclusion, i.e. the supply to the parishes of Compton Dundon, Kingweston, Barton St. David, Keinton Mandeville, Babcary and in addition, augment the supply at Somerton and Long Sutton. Stage III is estimated to cost £110,372.

LONG SUTTON

This Source supplies the Parish of Long Sutton with
an average of 10,000 gallons per day.

The supply is a very hard water, (total hardness 37) and coming from a shallow well is liable to contamination at times.

LONG SUTTON Cont.

The quantity is not adequate to maintain a continuous supply in the summer months, and the Council will consider whether to augment or completely replace the supply with water drawn from the new Eastern Parishes Scheme during 1949.

Five Bacteriological Examinations of water taken direct from the well showed that on 5 occasions it was unsatisfactory, whilst 12 out of 14 Bacteriological Examinations of the chlorinated water going into supply were satisfactory. The two unsatisfactory samples were found to be due to the chlorine solution supplied being under strength, and the matter was put right as soon as this was detected.

Chlorination is carried out continuously.

There are 194 dwelling houses in the parish, and of this number 186 are connected to the public supply. The mains supply is not available for the remaining 8 houses.

LYTES CARY

Supplying the Parishes of Kingsdon and Somerton in Langport Rural District and Ilchester in Yeovil Rural District.

This water is satisfactory as regards quality, although it has a total hardness of 35, and the springs at times are contaminated.

The yield from the springs is generally more than adequate to meet the demand, but in the summer months after very dry periods the yield will fall to such an extent that restrictions have to be imposed. The present intention is to augment the supply from the Eastern Parishes Scheme.

In view of the liability of the springs to contamination the water is continually chlorinated. Six samples of the springs (unchlorinated) were obtained during the year four being contaminated. Fourteen samples of the water after chlorination were obtained 13 being satisfactory.

Continual chlorination of the supply is undertaken.

Extensions or Improvements of Supply during the Year

The installation of a submersible pump at Pound Pool was carried out during the year in order to assist the supply in the event of extreme shortage during summer months.

Post War Proposals

The augmentation of this supply will be arranged for as part of the Eastern Parishes Scheme Stage III.

WESTERN PARISHES

Supplying the Parishes of Beercrocombe, Curry Mallet, Isle Abbotts, Isle Brewers, Curry Rivel, Drayton, Barrington, Fivehead & Puckington.

Two sources of supply provide water for the nine parishes viz:- Adit at Barrington, supplying an average of 25,000 gallons per day, and an average of 85,000 gallons per day supplied by Chard Rural District.

WESTERN PARISHES Cont.

The water from these sources is satisfactory in quality, although slight contamination does occasionally arise at the Barrington Adit. The total hardness is 33.5 of water obtained from the Adit, and 5.5 in the water from Chard R.D.C.

The yield at the Adit has been low for some years and although additional water has been obtained from Chard, there has been difficulty in maintaining a supply, and restrictions have been imposed at times during the summer months. The situation appears to be due to several factors, viz:-

- (a) Low yield at Barrington.
- (b) Inadequate storage. (Total 115,000 gallons)
- (c) Additional building of houses at Curry Rivel at such a height that only an intermittent supply can be afforded when the reservoir is entirely full.
- (d) Increasing demand.
- (e) The fact that Chard is now supplying the maximum amount possible at present, in view of number of boreholes, pumping equipment and size of mains available.

With regard to this situation a fresh agreement provides for the increase of equipment necessary on the part of Chard R.D.C., and the Langport R.D.C. have given their Consulting Engineers instructions to prepare a preliminary scheme to overcome the difficulties due to factors under their control.

Sampling has been carried out regularly, the results are as follows:- 6 satisfactory, 7 unsatisfactory (slight contamination).

The slight contamination referred to above at Barrington Adit was found on one occasion to be due to a hose pipe used to fill the syphon and this has been replaced by a service pipe direct from the main. Upon another occasion it was discovered that a mole had worked through to the adit. In both cases the supply was chlorinated until the water was subsequently reported upon as being bacteriologically pure.

Extensions or Improvements of Supply during the year - None

Post War Proposals

At stated above, arrangements for improvements both in the supply from Chard, and in the distribution scheme for this district, are being investigated by the Consulting Engineers.

There is a possibility that this supply can be assisted via the Huish Booster Plant when the new 10" main from Compton Durville is completed, although the contemplated improvements to the Western Parishes supply should still be investigated and pursued.

During the year the following water samples were obtained:-

Bacteriological Examination	93
Chemical Analysis	<u>5</u>
	98

Sewage Disposal

The Somerton Sewage Extension Scheme was commenced in December 1948, and is anticipated to take about 18-months to complete. This extension will provide sewers for approximately 110 houses, and open up several new sites for building plots in the west end of the Town.

Post War Proposals

No Schemes have yet been prepared by this Council, and none are at present contemplated, although it was recommended to the Council that a Scheme should be prepared for the parish of Langport, but in view of the rather heavy financial commitments on their Scheme in progress at the moment, the Council decided to defer the matter for the time being.

The Somerton Sewage Field, where intermittent downward filtration is carried out, operates very satisfactorily and is well maintained.

The Sewage Disposal Works At Kingsbury Episcopi and Curry Rivel operate satisfactorily, although considerable repair and maintenance work will be required during 1949.

Closet Accommodation - 45 closets converted from privies to W.C. systems, and in order to do this 41 new septic tank systems were constructed, and 4 new connections made to the public sewer.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Inspections for nuisances	...	320
Informal Notices	... ..	49
Drainage Tests	... ..	106
Houses disinfected	... ..	16
Shops and offices	... ..	No action was taken during the year under the Shops Acts, 1934.
Smoke Abatements	... ..	No serious cases of smoke nuisance were reported during the year.

Other Visits

Other visits with regard to the following:-

Sewage Disposal, Water Supplies, Milk and Dairies, Town Planning, Building Licensing, Infectious Diseases, Refuse Collection, Rats and Mice Destruction, Rivers Pollution, Food and Drugs Acts etc. ... 1,765.

50 new Council Houses have been built during the year. Five houses are still temporarily in use although condemned.

SECTION D.

Housing Inspections. (Including houses surveyed in connection with the Hobhouse Report).

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) ... 30

(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	...	30
2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932.		2
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	2
(c)	Number of houses in which no action was found necessary.		1.
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.		2.
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation.		-

Housing Action

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	10.
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action.	-

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.
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Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.
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Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.
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Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding

There is still some unavoidable but highly undesirable overcrowding although six cases of overcrowding were abated during the year.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	482
Number of Distributors on the Register (divided as follows:-)		...	127
(1) Distributors only	...	...	2
(2) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	125

The following Milk Samples were taken during 1948:-

Ungraded	...	...	-
Pasteurised	7
Tubercle Bacilli	30.

Number of Slaughterhouses, Licensed	5.
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* Number in use under the Ministry of Food Nil.

During the year 39 visits were made in connection with the examination of meat and other foods, whilst 31 further visits were paid to food premises.

Number of Knackers Yards in use	1.
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One slaughter house licensed in October 1948 in use for Horse slaughtering, and all animals killed are inspected. 14.

SECTION . F

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following inoculations were given during 1948:-

	<u>1st and 2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>5 - 14 years</u>	<u>5 - 14 years</u>
25	29	254

Notifiable Diseases

Disease	Total Cases notified.		Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	1947	1948		
Scarlet Fever	7	1	-	-
Measles	108	138	1	-
Whooping Cough	24	117	1	1
Chicken Pox	11	14	-	-
Pneumonia	8	5	-	-

Analysis of the Total Cases Notified

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Period.	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12	6	3	-	2	1	-	-
Total new cases			21	Deaths			3.	

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for the purpose of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	19	6	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	59	-	-	-
Total	78	6	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted.
			To H.M. In- spectors.	By H.M. In- spectors.	
Sanitary Conveniences. Unsuitable or Defective.	1	1	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

PART 8 OF THE ACT
OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	No. of out Workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1)(c)(3).	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists.	Notices Served.	Prose- cutions.
Wearing Apparat making etc.	427	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	427	-	-	-	-
